

Afghanistan

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor²⁶

Population, children, 5-14 years:	-
Working children, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working boys, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working girls, 5-14 years (%):	-
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	18
Compulsory education age:	Secondary level
Free public education:	Yes
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2005:	101.4
Net primary enrollment rate (%):	-
School attendance, children 5-14 years (%):	-
Survival rate to grade 5 (%):	-
ILO Convention 138:	No
ILO Convention 182:	No
CRC:	3/28/1994
CRCOPAC:	9/24/2003*
CRCOPSC:	9/19/2002*
Palermo:	No
ILO-IPEC participating country:	No

*Accession

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Afghanistan work in brick factories and as street vendors, shopkeepers, workshop assistants, blacksmiths, domestic servants, auto mechanics, and carpet weavers.²⁷ Children as young as 4 or 5 years of age have been reported working.²⁸ In rural areas, children work in agriculture and coal mining, and in urban areas, some children are engaged in begging gangs.²⁹ Years of conflict have left many families with child-headed households, thus forcing those children to work.³⁰ Children are also used in the production and trafficking of opium.³¹

Afghanistan is a country of origin and transit for children trafficked internally and to Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Zambia for forced labor as child soldiers, begging, commercial sexual exploitation, domestic service, or debt bondage in the carpet and brick industries.³² There is increasing evidence of children being recruited into both state and non-state armed forces, though the prevalence of the occurrence is unclear.³³

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age for employment at 18 years, although children may be employed in light work at 15 years and may be hired as trainees at 14 years.³⁴ Children between 16 and 18 years may only work 35 hours per week. The law does not permit children to be engaged in underground work or in conditions that are physically arduous or harmful to their health.³⁵ The recruitment of children less than 18 years for work that is harmful to their health and could cause physical damage or disability is prohibited.³⁶ USDOS reports that enforcement of child labor laws is made difficult due to a lack of Government capacity, lack of formal birth registrations, and the concentration of child labor in the informal sector and agriculture, which are not covered by the labor law.³⁷

The Constitution prohibits forced labor.³⁸ A new anti-trafficking law was enacted on July 15, 2008, which prescribes an 8- to 15-year sentence for labor trafficking and life imprisonment for sex trafficking.³⁹ The minimum age for recruitment into the Armed Forces is 18 years.⁴⁰

Current Government Policies and Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs, and Disabled, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of the Interior, are administering the National Strategy on the Protection of Children at Risk. This strategy includes a separate chapter on the worst forms of child labor, with a focus on street children.⁴¹ The

Government also has a national plan of action to combat trafficking.⁴² In general, NGOs run care facilities for trafficking victims, with the Government providing referrals and transportation to the facilities. Child victims of trafficking are placed with Government social service agencies, orphanages, or NGO-run facilities.⁴³ The Government has also provided land for NGOs to build shelters that house child trafficking victims.⁴⁴ A large anti-trafficking awareness campaign directed at women and girls has been implemented by IOM with cooperation from the Government.⁴⁵

In January 2009, the Government began participating in a 4-year, USD 24 million social protection program funded by the European Commission that aims to combat child labor through family reintegration, schooling, and vocational and literacy training.⁴⁶ The Government is also participating in two USDOS-funded anti-trafficking projects implemented by IOM. The projects will create links between the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the media in order to facilitate anti-trafficking media campaigns, as well as provide referral services for victims of trafficking, including children. In addition, a focus will be on building the capacity of law enforcement officials.⁴⁷

²⁶ For statistical data not cited here, see the Data Sources and Definitions section. For ratifications and ILO-IPEC membership, see the Introduction. For minimum age for admission to work, see Government of Afghanistan, *Labour Code*, (January 2008). For age to which education is compulsory, see U.S. Department of State, "Afghanistan," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2008*, Washington, DC, February 25, 2009, section 5; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/index.htm>. For free public education, see Government of Afghanistan, *Constitution*, (January 4, 2004), article 43; available from http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/af00000_.html. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Afghanistan," section 5.

²⁷ U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Afghanistan," section 6d. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Afghanistan: Thousands of Child Labourers in Eastern Province Deprived of Education", IRINnews.org, [online], May 10, 2007 [cited March 17, 2008]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=72062>. See also Government of Afghanistan, *Information*

on elimination of worst forms of child labor in Afghanistan, December 30, 2007. See also U.S. Embassy- Kabul, *reporting*, January 23, 2009, 2. See also Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, *Situation of Child Labour in Afghanistan Research Report*, 2006, 3 and 12; available from http://www.aihrc.org.af/rep_child_labour_2006.pdf.

²⁸ Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, *Situation of Child Labor in Afghanistan*, 15.

²⁹ U.S. Embassy- Kabul, *reporting*, January 23, 2009, 2. See also Integrated Regional Information Networks, "Afghanistan: UNICEF Expresses Concern about Child Labour", IRINnews.org, [online], December 6, 2005 [cited March 18, 2008]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=50528&SelectRegion=Asia&SelectCountry=AFGHANISTAN>.

See also Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, *Situation of Child Labor in Afghanistan*, 13.

³⁰ A. B. Popal, *Child-Labor or Breadwinner*, UN-Habitat, October 8, 2004; available from <http://www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org/project/voice.php?sn=8&cn=2&la=1>.

³¹ U.S. Embassy- Kabul, *reporting*, January 23, 2009, 2.

³² U.S. Department of State, "Afghanistan (Tier 2)," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008*, Washington, DC, June 4, 2008; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/index.htm>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2008: Afghanistan," section 5. See also Government of Afghanistan, *Information on elimination of worst forms of child labor in Afghanistan*. See also IOM, *Trafficking in Persons: An Analysis of Afghanistan*, 2003. See also U.S. Embassy- Kabul, *reporting*, February 18, 2009, 23b.

³³ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Afghanistan," in *Child Soldiers Global Report*, London, 2008, 41; available from <http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/content/afghanistan>. See also UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary General on children and armed conflict in Afghanistan*, November 10, 2008, 1, 6-7.

³⁴ Government of Afghanistan, *Labour Code*, article 13. See also U.S. Embassy- Kabul, *reporting*, January 23, 2009.

³⁵ Government of Afghanistan, *Labour Code*, articles 31 and 120.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, article 13.

³⁷ U.S. Embassy- Kabul, *reporting*, January 23, 2009, 6 and 8.

³⁸ Government of Afghanistan, *Constitution*, article 49.

³⁹ U.S. Embassy- Kabul, *reporting*, February 18, 2009, 25a-c.

⁴⁰ Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Child Soldiers Global Report: Afghanistan," 40.

⁴¹ Government of Afghanistan, *Information on elimination of worst forms of child labor in Afghanistan*.

See also U.S. Embassy- Kabul, *reporting, January 23, 2009*, 5.

⁴² U.S. Embassy- Kabul, *reporting, February 18, 2009*, 27d.

⁴³ Ibid., 26b.

⁴⁴ U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2008: Afghanistan."

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ U.S. Embassy- Kabul, *reporting, January 23, 2009*, 6.

⁴⁷ U.S. Department of State, *USG Funds Obligated in FY 2008 for Anti-Trafficking in Persons Projects*, [online] April 3, 2009 [cited May 29, 2009]; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/reports/2009/121506.htm>. See also IOM, *Afghanistan*, [online] November 2007 [cited February 6, 2009]; available from <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/pid/490>.

Albania

Selected Statistics and Indicators on Child Labor⁴⁸

Population, children, 7-14 years, 2000:	567,247
Working children, 7-14 years (%), 2000:	36.6
Working boys, 7-14 years (%), 2000:	41.1
Working girls, 7-14 years (%), 2000:	31.8
Working children by sector, 5-14 years (%):	
- Agriculture	-
- Manufacturing	-
- Services	-
- Other	-
Minimum age for work:	16
Compulsory education age:	16*
Free public education:	Yes**
Gross primary enrollment rate (%), 2004:	105.3
Net primary enrollment rate (%), 2004:	93.6
School attendance, children 7-14 years (%), 2000:	50.9
Survival rate to grade 5 (%):	-
ILO Convention 138:	2/16/1998
ILO Convention 182:	8/2/2001
CRC:	2/27/1992
CRCOPAC:	12/9/2008***
CRCOPSC:	2/5/2008***
Palermo:	8/21/2002
ILO-IPEC participating country:	Yes

*Or 9 years

**In practice, must pay for various school expenses

***Accession

Incidence and Nature of Child Labor

Children in Albania work as street or shop vendors, farmers or shepherds, vehicle washers,

textile factory workers, or shoeshine boys.⁴⁹ Children can also be found working as beggars and drug runners.⁵⁰ In Bater, Bulqiza, Borje, and Klos, children 16 and 17 years of age work in chromium mines.⁵¹ The majority of children working on the streets are boys, and the majority of children working in factories are girls.⁵² In inspected factories, more than 70 percent of underage workers were girls.⁵³

Albania is a source country for children trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor.⁵⁴ Albanian children are trafficked domestically and to Greece for begging and other forms of child labor.⁵⁵ Roma and Egyptian children are at greatest risk for trafficking.⁵⁶ Reports indicate that street children may be involved in forced prostitution.⁵⁷ During the year, 2 NGOs assisted 327 suspected child trafficking victims domestically—it is not clear whether these children were being trafficked domestically or internationally—and assisted 486 Albanian children in Greece.⁵⁸

Child Labor Laws and Enforcement

The law sets the minimum age of employment at 16 years, at which time individuals may perform "easy jobs" not harmful to their health and growth, with types and conditions of such employment defined by the Council of Ministers.⁵⁹ Children as young as 14 years may receive vocational training and may be employed during school holidays, provided it does not harm their health and growth.⁶⁰ Difficult jobs, those that pose danger to an individual's "health and personality," are prohibited for anyone under